(b) The Karakoram Highway involves the use of Indian territory in that portion of the State of Jammu & Kashmir which is under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. India has consistently protested since 1969, when the construction of the Highway was undertaken. against Pakistani activity in this regard. Neither the Karakoram Highway nor its upgradation would confer any right or any legal authority on Pakistan. Further, the proposed upgradation and the administrative arrangements which may flow out of it as well as any traffic through this route would only be a consequence of the fact of Pakistan's illegal occupation.

The Karakoram Highway can be used for military purposes. It, therefore, impinges upon India's security. Government consistently monitors all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard and defend India's security interests.

[Translation]

Looting of Indian Airlines Office in Karachi

2809. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons robbed the Karachi based office of the Indian Airlines at gun point recently;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured in this incident and the details of the amount looted from them;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan: and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). On 12 June, 1996 several armed men entered the Indian Airlines office in Karachi They forced open the cash boxes, safes, drawers, etc., and at gun-point robbed all officials and passengers of their belongings. including cash and other valuable items. In addition, they took away the day's collection of Rs.1,21,200/- and the imprest cash.

A protest has been lodged with Pakistan through the diplomatic channels. Pakistan authorities have been asked to investigate the matter and to provide adequate security to the Indian Airlines office, its officials and their families.

[English]

Pakistan's Missiles Project

2810. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that according to a report based on 'Securistic Political Analysis Magazine, Pakistan is likely to go for missile project which will go to a distance of 600 kms and for the manufacture of these missiles Pakistan had already acquired the requisite material viz. Aluminum powder. RDX etc.; and

(b) if so, the action of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Legislation on Family Planning Programme

2811. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Haryana and Rajasthan. there has been a legislation barring people having more than two children from contesting panchayat Election;

(b) if so, whether this legislation is in accordance with the Central policy regarding family welfare programme; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government to settle the issue with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Section 175 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act,94 prospectively debars persons with more than two living children from holding office in Panchayats at village, Samiti and district levels. Section 19 of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 prospectively disqualifies persons having more than two children from contesting elections to Panchayats.

(b) and (c). The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment Bill, 1992 provides, inter-alia, that a person shall be disqualified. for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of Parliament, or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State if he has more than two children. The disqualification will come into force one year after the commencement of the Act corresponding to the Bill. This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1992 It was subsequently referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee which has since recommended passage of the Bill without any changes.

Expreseway in Delhi

2812. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Delhi Government has proposed to develop an urban expressway in the city;